

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claims 1-3 without prejudice or disclaimer.

Please add claims 4-7 as follows:

Sub 7
4. (New) An apparatus for statistical multiplexing of ATM links, comprising:
a plurality of virtual connections which transmit ATM cells via a connecting line; and
incoming connections which are assigned to a first or a second class depending on a
result of a predetermined analysis, wherein the first class is subdivided into sub-classes.

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5. (New) The apparatus as claimed in claim 1, wherein at least one of the transmission
parameters of the connecting line or the connection are used to determine the result of the
analysis.

6. (New) The apparatus as claimed in claim 1, wherein the analysis is performed, in
sequence, on each of the sub-classes until the incoming connection is assigned to a sub-class or
all the sub-classes have been analyzed.

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7. (New) The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein at least one of the transmission
parameters and the analysis results are stored in a network node and are updated when an ATM
link is set up and/or cleared.